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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/696,322 | 10/29/2003 | Ronald Kronenberger | 00156-0055US | 6545 |

7590 09/29/2004

WOOD, PHILLIPS, KATZ, CLARK & MORTIMER
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500 West Madison Street
Chicago, IL 60661-2511

EXAMINER

IZAGUIRRE, ISMAEL

| | |
|----------|--------------|
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|

3765

DATE MAILED: 09/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/696,322

Applicant(s)

KRONENBERGER, RONALD

Examiner

Ismael Izaguirre

Art Unit

3765

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 14-27 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Abstract

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of its length. An Abstract should be limited to no more than 150. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

CLAIMS

Summary

Claims 1,14 and 24 are the independent claims under consideration in this Office Action.

Claims 2-13,15-23 and 25-27 are the dependent claims under consideration in this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bono (3,381,642).

Bono teaches a bobbin case assembly comprising a wall structure 11 operable for supporting and defining a receptacle within which a supply of thread is stored. Bono teaches a tensioning assembly comprising a first surface bearing against the thread. The thread passes between the wall and the tension assembly. The thread assembly

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comprises a leaf spring element 19, which adjustably bears against the thread by a ring segment 20. The ring segment is selectively adjustable circumferentially with respect to the wall for applying and maintaining a plurality of different magnitudes of force on selected areas of the tensioning segment 19. The segment 19 includes a fixing region (at 24) for affixing the segment on to the wall, at least two flexing areas, where one has a greater cross sectional area (at 23) and the other has a smaller cross-sectional area (at 22), where a two-stage flexing of the segment are possible. The areas 22 and 23 have different frictional characteristics (due to their different cross sectional areas) and apply tension to the thread in different amounts.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 14-27 are allowable over the prior art of record.

PERTINENT CITATIONS

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Bierweller illustrates a flexible spring with an oval shaped notch therein functioning as a needle guard. Lindquist illustrates a thread pull-off control comprising a roller assembly. Ackerman illustrates a thread tension device comprising a bent region and a diminishing tensioning cross-section. Dreier illustrates a tensioning device comprising an adjustable thread pressure. Muramatsu illustrates a tensioning device including a variable cross-sectional spring.

INQUIRIES

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist at (703) 308-0861.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications directed to the examiner should be directed to Mr. Ismael Izaguirre at (703) 308-0892 located in CP2-4B18, Monday through Friday 9:30am to 6:00pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ismael Izaguirre', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Ismael Izaguirre
Primary Examiner
Group Art Unit 3765**

II
9/24/04